

THE ART OF WAR



WARRIOR TASKS

REACT TO AMBUSH (NEAR AND FAR) DISMOUNTED

Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey
III Armored Corps and Fort Hood

“When we talk about Warrior Tasks such as Reaction to Ambushes, we need to realize the life or death of our Soldiers hangs on our capability to respond quickly. As leaders we must coach, teach and mentor our Soldiers through the many different Battle Drills by being there and going through the drills with the Soldiers. There is nothing that takes the place of actually seeing and experiencing what our Soldiers are going through first hand. Once we have certified them as trained, we must give them the authority to take the actions needed to stay alive in combat and stand by them if they make an honest human mistake.”



Photo by Pfc. John S. Gurtler

Vigilance

Cpl. Torria Maynard, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 24 Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, patrols Mosul, Iraq.



Photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Edward Martens

Alert

A member of the 2nd Battalion 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) provides cover for his squad.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott A. Pinkham
NCO Academy (PLDC), Chief Instructor
Fort Bliss, Texas

“I feel that the Warrior Tasks, such as Reaction to Ambushes, are a very important part of our everyday training. Without this training we are putting the life of many of our soldiers on the line. Every soldier should take this training very seriously and constantly rehearse this in their head, because if the time ever comes that they need to react, they will be ready and not hesitate.”

React to Ambush (Near and Far) Dismounted**GO****NO-GO****Near Ambush (Within Hand-Grenade Range)**

1. Depending on the terrain, soldiers in the kill zone carry out one of the following two actions:

a. Return fire immediately. If cover is not available, immediately, without order or signal, assume the prone position and throw concussion or fragmentation and smoke grenades.

b. Return fire immediately. If cover is available, without order or signal, seek the nearest covered position, assume the prone position, and throw fragmentation or concussion and smoke grenades.

2. Immediately after the explosion of the concussion or fragmentation grenades, soldier in the kill zone return fire and assault through the ambush position using fire and movement.

3. Soldiers not in the kill zone identify the enemy location, and then place accurate suppressive fire against the enemy's position. Fire is shifted as the personnel in the kill zone begin to assault.

4. Soldiers in the kill zone continue the assault to eliminate the ambush or until contact is broken.

5. The platoon conducts consolidation and reorganization.

Far Ambush (Out of Hand-Grenade Range)

1. Soldiers receiving fire immediately return fire, take up covered positions, and suppress the enemy -

a. By destroying or suppressing enemy crew-served weapons.

b. By sustaining suppressive fires.

2. Soldiers (squads/teams) not receiving fire move by a covered and concealed route to a vulnerable flank of the enemy position and assault using fire and movement.

3. Soldiers in the kill zone continue suppressive fires and shift fires as the assaulting squad/team fights through the enemy position.

4. The platoon FO calls for and adjusts indirect fires as directed by the platoon leader. On order, he lifts or shifts fires to isolate the enemy position or to attack them with indirect fires as they retreat.

5. The squad/section leader reports, reorganizes as necessary, and continues the mission.